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Drivers of Brazilian biodiesel governance: Power, subjectivities, risk and sustainability of Gaucho Production poles

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The paper analyzes the effectiveness of the Brazilian biodiesel governance using the Gaucho Poles as a study case in Rio Grande do Sul State, one of the largest Brazil's production areas. Interviews were made with social actors including farmers, rural unions, cooperatives, associations, research agencies, government representatives, and industries. Secondary data were also included from papers, federal government secretaries and biodiesel industries propaganda. All collected data were processed in Atlas.ti software and generated codes according to the theoretical literature explored. Besides the coding process this paper suggests a toll to organize, analyze and summarize the drivers of performance of energy resource governance mechanisms. The results showed a regular governance performance with low social actor's participation, a coordination lack with other public policies and a weak technical and socio-institutional innovative experience. From the initial cooperation, the competition amongst biodiesel industries, cooperatives and cereal industries became fierce. The feasibility for the biodiesel industries activities is maintained by the official subsidies and the parallel exploration of the protein-meal and vegetable oil market. The subsequent increasing of the agricultural activities raises questions linked to land use change over the remaining natural prairies and traditional livestock areas over the state brings uncertainties about the sector sustainability. The process reinforced a soybean crops path dependency and strengthened an oriented economic development conception.

Biography

Arnoldo Santos de Lima completed a degree in Geography from the University of Brasilia - UnB. He is a Master and PhD student in Sustainable Development, Public Policies and Environmental Management, at Center for Sustainable Development (CSD/UnB). His research specialties are rural and local development, governance on energy. He received a fellowship from Capes - Higher Education Personnel Training Coordination.

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